

The Wasatch News

VOLUME SEVENTY-FIVE

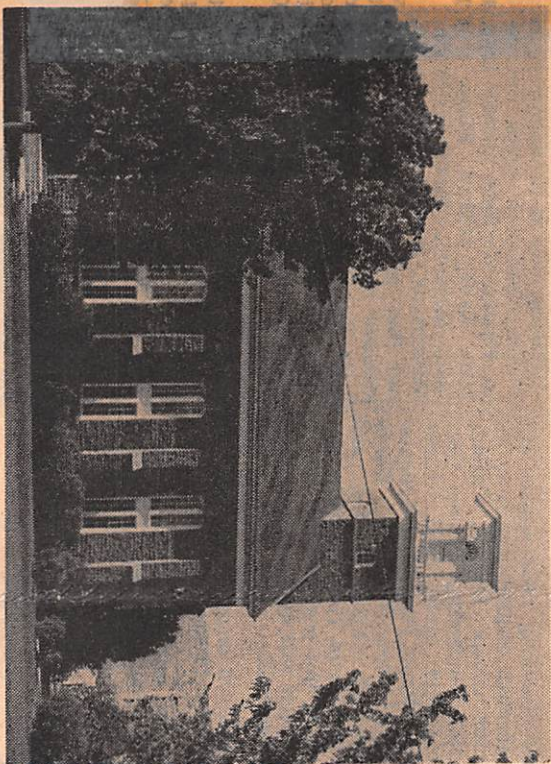
HEBER CITY, UTAH 84032, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1964

NUMBER TWENTY-EIGHT

LDS Authorities Vote To Keep Tabernacle

On Tuesday morning, September 8, the petition to save the Wasatch Stake Tabernacle with a total of 1366 signatures was presented by the local committee to President Hugh B. Brown, at his request.

He too, kine petition before the Finance Committee of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints which was then in session. He returned shortly to announce that a vote had been taken and it was decided that the building should not be destroyed, but other suitable property should be secured for a new two-ward stake center.



STAKE TABERNACLE SPARED—The Wasatch Stake Tabernacle will continue to grace the Heber City skyline after it has been spared an untimely demise by a vote of the LDS Church authorities. A new, suitable site for the stake center will be sought.

Heber Committee Gains, May Save Tabernacle

Special to The Tribune

HEBER — Wasatch LDS Stake's historic Tabernacle, scheduled for destruction to make way for a new, bigger building, can be preserved — if conditions set by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints can be met.

MRS. RUTH WITT, leading the Committee for the Preservation of the Wasatch Stake Tabernacle, said Wednesday LDS Church officials had offered the building to what it termed "responsible persons" in Heber Valley providing (1) another site could be found for construction of a new stake center and (2) some useful purpose could be found for the old building.

Church estimates had put the cost of renovating the building substantially higher than the cost of a new building, Dr. Everett L. Cooley, director of the Utah State Historical Society, said.

THE TABERNACLE, built of red sandstone cut from the hills around Heber and carried by horse-drawn wagons to the site, was built in 1887, Dr. Cooley said. Besides its architectural merits, which are considerable, the building represents "the soul of Heber" and Heber's history, he said.

Last week, the committee circulated a petition in Wasatch County, requesting that the tabernacle be preserved, Mrs. Witt said. They got 1,366 signatures from adults in the county, she said. The population of Wasatch County is 5,308, according to the 1960 census.

THE NUMBER OF signatures represents about 25 per cent of the population of the county, Mrs. Witt said, but "we took signatures only from adults."

Tuesday the committee presented the petition to President Hugh B. Brown, First Counselor in the LDS First Presidency.

PRESIDENT BROWN took the petition to the church's Finance Committee, which was meeting at the time and the

committee voted that the building could not be kept as a stake tabernacle. But if the Wasatch group could procure property for a new stake center, the committee agreed the church would turn the old building over to responsible persons.

ORIGINAL PLANS called for the building to be torn down with contracts to be let Aug. 12. On the request of Mrs. Witt and her committee, church officials granted a 30-day extension, Mrs. Witt said.

Calls for help went out to the Utah Historical Society, Recreation and Parks Commission, Utah Tourist and Publicity Council, Heber City Council, Midway Board of Trustees and the Wasatch County Commission, Mrs. Witt said.

ALL THESE organizations, with Dr. Cooley and Mrs. Witt as leaders, worked to convince officials of the need for preserving the building.

"What we wanted to accomplish has been accomplished," Mrs. Witt said.

the memorial fund of the church

Des News 17 Sept 1964
HEBER TABERNACLE

Extension Granted

HEBER—The Citizens Committee must act this week if it is to save the historic Wasatch Stake Tabernacle of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. They were granted a week's extension of time by Pres. Hugh B. Brown of the First Presidency.

The Heber group must secure a suitable site for the new proposed stake center and two-ward chapel. The new building previously was to be built on the lot where the tabernacle and amusement hall now stand.

Des. News 10 Oct 64
TABERNACLE

Progress In Heber Site Fight

HEBER, Wasatch County — Encouraging success was reported Saturday in the drive to save from the bulldozer a building embodying much of Heber's pioneer history.

The efforts are in behalf of the stately red sandstone Wasatch Stake Tabernacle, considered probably the community's most outstanding landmark.

The building was scheduled to be torn down to make way for a modern stake and ward center for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. However, Wasatch Stake officials have agreed to a "stay of execution" in hopes the building can be saved.

NEED SITE

Several stumbling blocks have been overcome, but the major one—raising \$60,000 for an alternate site—has not been surmounted.

However, the chairman of a fund drive reports good success thus far in raising the amount.

The chairman, Glen M. Hatch, Heber attorney, said "substantial donations" have been received, including individual contributions of up to \$1,000.

The committee, which includes John Anderson and Mrs. Alice Ashton, plans to canvass every individual and business in Wasatch County and to make a statewide appeal.

HAVE FUND

Persons wishing to contribute may send their donations to the "Save the Tabernacle Fund," Heber Branch, First Security Bank of Utah.

If the fund drive fails, the contributions will be returned to individual donors, said Mr. Hatch.

However, there is urgency in raising the funds since the start of the new stake center has already been delayed considerably and officials are anxious to get the badly needed building under way.

"If you love the old Wasatch Stake Tabernacle, you'll have to love it quick," said Mr. Hatch.

REPORT SCHEDULED

The fund committee is scheduled to report Tuesday to stake officials on progress. It has been indicated that if prospects for

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achieving the goal are good, sufficient time will be granted.

Wasatch Stake President J. Harold Call is cooperating in helping to save the old building and the Utah State Historical Society plans to canvass its own membership for funds, according to Director Everett L. Cooley.

The other two obstacles, already overcome, are acquisition of an alternate site and the problem of maintenance of the old structure.

Mr. Hatch reported that another site has been agreed upon by the stake and the two wards involved, and has received partial approval by the Building Committee of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The Heber City Council has agreed to assume maintenance of the pioneer building.

The old structure is considered a fine example of early craftsmanship.

Heber Group Makes Progress

HEBER — Progress has been reported by the Citizens' Committee in their effort to save the historic Wasatch Stake Tabernacle. A building site has been approved by a representative of the Church Building Committee The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

It is estimated that \$60,000 will be needed for acquisition of a site and for necessary repairs to the tabernacle. Committees are organized and donations for "Save the Tabernacle Fund" will be sought.